



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
Governor's Office of Homeland Security
and
Emergency Preparedness

KEVIN DAVIS
DIRECTOR

July 8, 2013

Dear Local Government Official:

In the wake of Super Storm Sandy and based in part on what has been learned through Louisiana's recovery from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Congress recently passed and President Obama signed into law the *Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013* (P.L. 113-2) (Sandy Legislation). Among other provisions, the law amends the Stafford Act and authorizes alternative procedures for FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) program for **debris removal** and **permanent work funding**. The law authorizes FEMA to implement the alternative procedures through a pilot program.

This legislation offers opportunity to significantly **reduce your debris removal costs** and **increase the Federal share** of those costs. More specifically the alternative procedures include:

- A **sliding scale (75 percent to 85 percent) incentive** for **accelerated debris removal**.
- Retention of revenues from debris **recycling**.
- Reimbursement of force account labor **straight time**.
- A **2-percent incentive** for debris management planning.

The bottom line is this: By electing to participate in and meet the requirements of this program, you can **increase the Federal cost share** for debris removal from 75 percent to as high as 87 percent. That can represent a significant savings to your organization.

This opportunity comes with requirements. **To participate in the 2-percent incentive, you must have a FEMA-approved *Debris Management Plan* and at least one (1) pre-qualified debris contractor prior to the disaster event. To participate in the sliding scale incentive, you must complete debris removal within a 90-day period, or in some cases sooner, to receive the highest percentage of funding support.**

Begin your debris management planning **now**. As hurricane season is already upon us, we urge you to **act quickly** to develop a *Debris Management Plan*. Attached are two (2) job aids to help you: *What You Need to Know About DEBRIS OPERATIONS*.

NOW! (Debris Guide) and the *DEBRIS MANAGEMENT PLAN OUTLINE* (Appendix A to the FEMA *Public Assistance – Debris Management Guide – FEMA 325 / July 2007*).

As soon as additional FEMA guidance is available, we will update you.

Contact your GOHSEP Regional Coordinator, State Applicant Liaison (SAL) and/or my office if you need further assistance.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Davis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin Davis
Director

Attachments